

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 H-02 AID-05 SS-15 AGR-05 AGRE-00 /090 W

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R 280505Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9556

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7193

ANKARA FOR DEARO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLANTING OF OPIUM POPPIES

REF: KABUL 1772

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS EXECUTED PLANNED DEMARCHES (ASSISTED ABLY BY THE SEPTEMBER TRIP TO KABUL OF CONGRESSMAN MORGAN MURPHY) AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN IN EFFORT TO HEAD OFF HEAVY PLANTATION OF OPIUM POPPY AND REDUCE NEXT SPRING'S HARVEST. PRESIDENT DAOUD EARLIER THIS YEAR TURNED FORCEFUL ATTENTION TO MATTER OF NARCOTICS CONTROL IN AFGHANISTAN, AND WE THINK MISSION CAMPAIGN ADDED IMPETUS TO CONTROL EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION HAS TAKEN STEPS FIRST OUTLINED REFTTEL. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THIS COORDINATED EFFORT TO FOCUS GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) THINKING ON NARCOTICS CONTROL JUST PRIOR TO AND DURING POPPY PLANTING PERIOD MAY PAY OFF IN TERMS OF DECREASED OPIUM SUPPLIES COME SPRING.

3. TIMING OF CONGRESSMAN MORGAN MURPHY'S VISIT TO
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KABUL SEPT 5-6 (SEE KABUL 6798) FELL PERFECTLY IN WITH

EMBASSY PLANS. WE HOPE OUR THANKS WILL BE GIVEN TO CONGRESSMAN MURPHY. HE WILLINGLY FOLLOWED A TOUGH SCHEDULE OF BRIEFINGS AND CALLS EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR HIM, AND BROUGHT NOTICE TO AFGHANS IN VERY EFFECTIVE WAY U.S. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. CONGRESSMAN'S SEPT 5 CALL TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR ON DEPUTY (AND DE FACTO) FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH WAS A PARTICULAR PLUS IN MISSION'S "ANTI-POPPY PLANTING" STRATEGY PLANNING. WE COULD USE MORE CODEL VISITS TO UNDERLINE AMERICAN CONCERN ABOUT AFGHAN NARCOTIC PRODUCTION.

4. AID DIRECTOR BROWN SEPT 23 EXPRESSED VERBALLY TO MIN. PLANNING KHURRAM OUR CONCERN OVER POPPY PLANTING AND OUR HOPE VIGOROUS MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN NOW TO KEEP DOWN HARVESTS. TO BROWN'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD SHORTLY BE SENDING THE MINISTER A LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT, KHURRAM REPLIED "SEND IT SOON --- THIS IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK OVER WITH THE PRESIDENT THIS WEEKEND." BROWN SUPPLIED LETTER ON SAME DAY, AND ALSO ADDRESSED IDENTICAL LETTERS TO HELMAND PROVINCE GOVERNOR SHERZAI AND MINISTER FOR WATER AND POWER MOHAMMEDI. LETTERS HAD AS ENCLOSURE REPRINT OF SECTION 481(A) OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AS AMENDED, RELATING TO ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY U.S. GOVERNMENT TOWARD COUNTRIES FAILING TO TAKE ADEQUATE STEPS IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS DRUGS.

5. DURING LATE AUGUST USIS SENT OUT TO SOME 500 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OPINION LEADERS A SPECIALLY PREPARED BOOKLET CALLED "NARCOTICS -- AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM." BOOKLET COMBINED EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S APRIL 27 (1976) MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS ON DRUG ABUSE, EXCERPTS OF A REPORT BY AMB. VANCE ON "THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM", AND AN ARTICLE BY JEAN NEPOTE TITLED "INTERPOL'S WAR ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC". BOOKLET ALSO CONTAINED CAPTIONED PHOTOGRAPHS RELATING TO RECENT DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN ... A REMINDER THAT WORLD PROBLEMS TREATED IN OTHER SECTIONS HAVE LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE BELIEVE BOOK HAD WIDE EFFECT AND A SECOND PRINTING WAS REQUESTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS ADVISOR TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR USE IN HIS OWN PROGRAMS.

6. WAY HAD ALREADY BEEN PREPARED TOWARD OBTAINING HIGHEST LEVEL AFGHAN ATTENTION TO NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEMS BY UNFDAC DIRECTOR DE BEUS'S FRANK LETTER TO DAOUD LAST SPRING, AND WE HAD HEARD EARLIER THAT DAOUD HAD RESPONDED WITH VIGOROUS ASSURANCES TO UNFDAC (SEE GENEVA 5871). EMBASSY ASSESSMENT NOW

IS THAT DAOUD IS ACUTELY SENSITIZED TO NARCOTICS CONTROL
ISSUE, THAT HE HAS ISSUED STRINGENT ORDERS TO HIS
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND INTERIOR, AND THAT AFGHAN
OFFICIALS FAILING TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN THIS FIELD WILL
DO SO AT THEIR PERIL. WE BELIEVE GOA ATTEMPTING TO
ASSURE THAT FEWER OPIUM POPPIES ARE BEING PLANTED THIS
SEASON. THE TEST OF THE GOA'S EFFORT WILL BE IN ACTUAL
PRODUCTION IN THE SPRING OF 1977. AT THAT TIME, THE EMBASSY
WILL WORK THROUGH AND WITH UNFDAC TO MONITOR AFGHAN PERFORMANCE
IN CONTROLLING OPIUM PRODUCTION.
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